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17 January 1952

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NIE-50: DISCUSSION

I. THE SOVIET OBJECTIVE

1. The Soviet objective in East Germany^{1/} is the establishment of a Communist state under Soviet control. The reorganization of the political and economic structure of East Germany along Soviet lines and the incorporation of East Germany into the Soviet Orbit are almost certainly regarded by the Kremlin not as barriers to or substitutes for the unification of Germany, but rather as steps toward the ultimate formation of a unified Communist Germany under Soviet control.

2. We do not believe that the Kremlin will surrender or even impair its present control over East Germany in order to hamper or to prevent the integration of West Germany with the West. As a tactical manoeuvre, the Kremlin might surrender some of its more overt control mechanisms, should any benefit be possible from such a manoeuvre, but this would not affect the foundations of Soviet authority.

1/ East Germany includes the Soviet Zone of Germany and the Soviet Sector of Berlin. The German Democratic Republic (GDR) does not include the Soviet Sector of Berlin.

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DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
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AUTH: HR 70-2

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II. PROBABLE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Current Political Situation

a. Internal Political Situation

3. Soviet control over East Germany is virtually complete and is assured by the instruments and techniques described in NIE-33, "Soviet Control of the European Satellites and Their Economic and Military Contributions to Soviet Power through Mid-1953".

4. After the establishment of the GDR in October 1949, the Soviet Military Administration was succeeded by the smaller and more centralized Soviet Control Commission, which governs the Soviet Sector of Berlin and maintains general supervision over the East German regime. As Soviet political control of East Germany became less overt, the Socialist Unity (Communist) Party (SED) acquired all key positions and became the subservient executor of Soviet policy.

5. To maintain the fiction that East Germany is a democratic multi-party state, the Communists have permitted the existence of purged bourgeois political parties — the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The Communists use the members of these parties to disseminate both covert and overt propaganda to Western Germany. In 1948 the Communists created two new parties,

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the Democratic Peasants Party and the National Democratic Party, to enlist support among elements of the population reluctant to join the SED or not desired within the SED. In 1949 all political parties were forced into a National Front controlled by the SED.

6. Although passive acceptance is general and there is no evidence of organized opposition, the vast majority of the East German population are opposed to the present regime. The regime has, however, gained some support in the last two years due to the effects of Communist education upon the youth, to the slow but steady rise in the standard of living, and to better concealment of Soviet controls and exploitation.

7. The regime has made great efforts to win over the youth, who comprise more than a third of the population and who have had no personal experience of life under a democratic government. This campaign has already had marked successes. About one-half of the youth are members of Communist organizations.

b. Position of East Germany within the Orbit

8. Substantial progress has been made during the last two years in merging East Germany with the Soviet Orbit. East Germany is a member of the Council of Economic Mutual

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Assistance (CEMA), an organization established by the USSR to help coordinate the economies of the Communist States of Eastern Europe. East Germany has trade agreements, cultural accords, and treaties of friendship with the USSR and with most of the Satellites, and it has a trade agreement with Communist China. However, the Kremlin has not concluded a mutual assistance pact with the GDR or permitted the GDR to conclude one with any of the Satellites, and the GDR is not a formal member of the Cominform.

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